



Achieving pro-poor growth through agriculture: the challenges

Six meetings convened by the **Future Agricultures** consortium — Institute of Development Studies, Imperial College and the Overseas Development Institute — to discuss key issues in agricultural policy for pro-poor growth.

Friday, 28 October 13.00–14.30, at Overseas Development Institute, 111 Westminster Br Rd

Effective rural institutions: the missing link in market-based agricultural development?

Why has market liberalisation often not resulted in increased rates of agricultural growth? A leading hypothesis sees failures in output and factor markets as the main cause, and institutional innovation as the remedy. If so, what kinds of institutional innovations are needed, and how can they be promoted?

Speakers: Jonathan Kydd, Imperial College

Friday, 04 November 13.00–14.30, at Overseas Development Institute, 111 Westminster Br Rd

Agriculture and the rural non-farm sector: rivals or complements?

Overwhelming evidence shows that in rural economies the non-farm sector is becoming increasingly important for jobs and incomes. At first sight, the RNFE offers an alternative to agricultural development, a rival for policy-makers' attention and development funding. But how much does the non-farm sector's growth depend on agriculture? Or is there substantial scope for independent development of the sector, and if so what policies are needed to realise the potential?

Speakers: Deborah Bryceson, Leiden & Peter Hazell, Imperial College

Friday, 11 November 13.00–14.30, at Overseas Development Institute, 111 Westminster Br Rd

What priorities for improved agricultural technology?

With world population still rising, and the rate of growth of yields of cereal crops falling, there is a strong case for renewed investment in agricultural technology. But what are the priorities and issues? Further intensification using bio-technology? Or do we need technology that may be more suitable to

poor people in marginal environments, that makes less demands on external inputs? In either case, how will that technology be developed: through the public sector, private companies or some third way?

Speakers: Michael Lipton, Sussex

Friday, 25 November 13.00–14.30, at Overseas Development Institute, 111 Westminster Br Rd

Politics, policies and agriculture: the art of the possible in agricultural development

Optimal policy is one thing: feasible policy is often another. At the macro level, there are questions about the fit of agricultural development policy to the realities of imperfect political systems that often give priority to redistribution through networks of patronage over investment in growth. At the micro level, there are the 'how' questions of implementation in circumstances where the public sector has low capacity.

Friday, 02 December 13.00–14.30, at Overseas Development Institute, 111 Westminster Br Rd

Is there a future for small farms?

The demise of smallholdings has long been announced, yet the numbers of small farms continues to rise in most of the developing world. In the not-so-distant past, smallholder development have been successful, as seen in the green revolution in parts of Asia. But are current conditions and likely future conditions — globalization and liberalised agricultural trade, the emerging supply chains with supermarkets playing a greater role, falling commodity prices, etc. — changing the balance? And if smallholders are to thrive, what policies are needed?

This session draws on the proceedings of a workshop held at Imperial College in June 2005.

Speakers: Colin Poulton, Imperial College & Steve Wiggins, Overseas Development Institute

Friday, 09 December 13.00–14.30, at Overseas Development Institute, 111 Westminster Br Rd

Agricultural growth and social protection: can we have both?

Agricultural growth will not alleviate all rural poverty. In the short run, it is likely that substantial numbers of the poor will benefit only a little if at all from such growth. Social protection will be needed to assist the very poor. But how can such social protection be offered in ways that are both efficient and effective, and that also complement growth?

Speakers: Stefan Dercon, Oxford & John Farrington, Overseas Development Institute